News release

NGT signs up with Met Office to forecast the nation's energy demands

4 September 2003

The Met Office has landed a three year, seven figure contract to provide the recently merged National Grid Transco (NGT) with a new range of tailored forecasting services.

This new deal will bring together and streamline forecasting services previously supplied to both National Grid and Transco, prior to their merger. The service will include new dedicated forecasts for demand forecasting models, highly specialised forecasts for operations and a graphic visualisation system that helps provide meteorological information and other services in a user friendly, accessible format.

National Grid Transco require forecasting services as weather is a core and vital factor in determining electricity and gas demand in the UK.

Met Office Utilities Sales Manager Nick Roberts said: "This is a significant deal for the Met Office. National Grid Transco is the leading player in UK energy markets, as well as having significant overseas interests, and their decision to choose the Met Office as their provider of meteorological information and services is a testimony to our accuracy and responsiveness to customer needs.

"We have listened to and understood National Grid Transco's requirements and with our global forecasting expertise, especially in short term forecasting, we have developed a set of bespoke forecasting services which will meet all their newly combined needs for the foreseeable future."

Met Office will also provide NGT employees with forecasting training over the three year period to ensure the company maximises the benefits of weather provision in all its operation centres.

Shanti Majithia, National Grid Transco's Forecasting Development Manager said: "To meet the nation's energy demands, we need to predict highs and lows in electricity and gas usage on a second by second basis. Nearly two-thirds of that demand is determined by the weather so it is imperative that we receive dependable and timely weather information to feed into our systems.

"The Met Office has proved itself a reliable supplier of high quality weather data to both National Grid and Transco over a number of years and so we are pleased to continue working in partnership with them as we move forward as one organisation."

Notes:

About National Grid Transco
National Grid Transco plc is an international energy delivery business, whose principal activities are in the regulated electricity and gas industries.

National Grid Transco is the largest investor-owned utility company in the UK. It owns and operates the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales, through National Grid, and Britain's natural gas transportation system, through Transco. National Grid Transco is also one of the top ten electricity companies in the USA, with the largest electricity transmission and distribution network in the New England/New York region and a gas distribution network in New York.

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